



Sunnybrae Normal School

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have started into a new phase of New Zealand's response to COVID-19 and it is very different than anything we have experienced. I wanted to reassure you that our school staff and Board of Trustees will continue to be available to support your child's learning and wellbeing throughout the length of the lockdown.

You will understand the importance of routine for your family. If your routine has been shaken up, as most of you are now working from home, it's good to structure your time. Routines are reassuring and promote health and physical wellbeing. As we approach school holidays, your family routine will likely look a little different but some form of routine will still be important.

School Playgrounds

Playgrounds have been closed to the public. COVID-19 Level 4 does not permit families to take their children to the school playgrounds to play.

Essential Workers within the Sunnybrae Community

A great big thank you to our parents who are Essential Workers. Please know we all appreciate your sacrifices. We are doing our part by staying home. The Ministry of Education provided information for you; I have included it at the very bottom of this letter.

Data Caps

Some good news to support you either working at home - Spark, Vodafone, Vocus/Slingshot, 2Degrees and Trustpower have all advised they have removed their data caps and the possibility of any extra charges based on usage.

Pacific Families

For our Pacific families, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' is working to ensure useful information is available. A one-hour special will be aired on Tagata Pasifika's segment on Saturday at 9:00 am, and on Sunday at 7:35 am where Tagata Pasifika will share messages from community leaders.

Video Conferencing

If you haven't tried, check out 'Zoom' (video conferencing). I am using it as a great way to keep in touch with friends all over the world and my family back in Canada. As a staff, we started using it last week and continue to successfully use it to collaboratively plan. To date, it is an effective and reliable platform.

We continue to work behind the scenes to create wonderful learning opportunities for your children just in case the lockdown continues beyond 4 weeks.

A big thank you to all of you for taking the lockdown so seriously. As we know staying at home will break the chain and save lives; breaking the rules could risk someone close to you. If you need support, please email me at lhurd@sunnybrae.school.nz.

Yours sincerely,

Lorene Hurd
Principal

Update on the Provision of Home-based Supervision and Care for the Children (aged 0-14 years) of Essential Workers

As advised in yesterday's Bulletin, the Government has agreed that three large home-based providers (Barnardos, Edubase and PORSE) will provide additional support to essential service workers, where workers are not able to make their own arrangements. These providers have national coverage.

The level of demand from essential service workers is not yet clear and we are exploring all options to make sure that essential service workers can do the important work necessary. In particular, we are working with the wider network of home-based providers to identify additional carers in areas of high demand.

Essential workers should still continue to contact one of the following three providers if they have been unable to make their own arrangements:

- Barnardos - covid19enquiries@barnardos.org.nz
- Edubase - [Home Grown Kids & Kids at Home](mailto:info@hgk.co.nz) 0508 44 54 37 or info@hgk.co.nz
- [PORSE](mailto:info@hgk.co.nz) 0800 023 456